



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rocky Mountain National Park

1000 U.S. Highway 36  
Estes Park, Colorado 80517

970-586-1363 phone  
970-586-1397 fax

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## Rocky Mountain National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release

David Eaker/Kyle Patterson 970-586-1363

### **Search for Missing Park Ranger to Intensify Over Weekend**

200 Searchers Will Be in the Field Today

The search for missing Rocky Mountain National Park Ranger Jeff Christensen will intensify this weekend with over 200 searchers on the ground. Christensen was last seen by visitors near the summit of Mount Chiquita at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Friday, July 29. He was planning a backcountry patrol to the Lawn Lake Trailhead that evening. He did not contact park dispatch that evening and did not arrive for his shift on Saturday. The search now enters its eighth day.

Today the searchers (including National Park Service personnel and search and rescue volunteers) and nine dog teams will continue to search the 26 square mile area where they believe Christensen may be, based on known evidence. Additionally, five helicopters will be used in today's operation, both to shuttle some crews into hard to access areas and to conduct aerial reconnaissance. A military helicopter equipped with infra-red, capable of sensing the heat from a person, will be used this morning. Some crews will be spending the night out in the search area to lengthen their search period. Ground crews will once again focus their efforts in the area where Wednesday's evidence indicated Christensen may be. Today's weather is expected to be clear this morning with a possibility of scattered showers in the afternoon.

The search area is in the Mummy Range which is a remote, high altitude, rugged area which includes Mount Chapin, Mount Chiquita, Ypsilon Mountain and Desolation Peaks. There are few designated trails in the area and hiking mainly occurs cross country.

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Christensen is 31-years-old and is an experienced mountaineer. He is extremely fit and capable of covering long distances in a short period of time. Although Jeff was not intending to spend the night he had a backpack with a variety of gear. He also had a park radio with him, however, in some drainages radio coverage is spotty or his battery could have run out. This is his fourth season as a park ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park. Jeff is an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and has worked ski patrol at Winter Park for the past seven years. His hometown is Fraser, Colorado.

Park officials are asking for help **from anyone who may have been** in the Mummy Range and/or Lawn Lake Trail area on Friday or Saturday to contact the park at **(970) 586-1204**.

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